

The Progressive Review

Nbr 325

May 1994

Nixon & Clinton

One thing that most Democrats have shared over nearly half a century has been the view that Richard Nixon was a truly awful man.

Nixon, after all, was the candidate for Congress who in 1946 accused his incumbent opponent, Jerry Voorhis, of a voting record "more socialistic and communistic than Democratic." Nixon would later attempt to explain this lie to a Voorhis supporter: "Of course I knew Jerry Voorhis wasn't a communist, but I had to win. That's the thing you don't understand. The important thing is to win"

Here's what Nixon said during that campaign about the political action committee of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, one of America's largest labor groups: "I welcome the opposition of PAC with its Communist principles and huge slush fund."

Nixon was the candidate for the Senate who used similar tactics against his opponent, Helen Gahagan Douglas. He called her "the pink lady." He would later call Adlai Stevenson a student at the "College of Cowardly Communist Containment," and Dean Acheson of being "taken in hook, line and sinker by the communists."

Nixon was the president who ran a covert program of massive spying on, and disruption of, anti-war and other progressive organizations. He conducted secret and illegal wars in Cambodia and Laos. He supervised the destruction of a democratic government in Chile, including the assassination of its president and the murder of thousands of its citizens. He promised to get us out of Vietnam but, in fact, had no plan. He then prolonged the war another four years, resulting in the deaths of 21,000 more American and 160,000 more South Vietnamese soldiers. He set up a private squad of criminals known as the "Plumbers" to carry out tactics against his opponents that he knew to be illegal. The Nixon administration conducted burglaries,

illegal searches and wiretaps, as well as dirty tricks ranging from lies spread about opponents to stink bombs thrown at Democratic rallies. It received illegal campaign funds and diverted funds to illegal purposes.

When it was proposed that the Plumbers might require some hush money in the wake of the Watergate revelations, Nixon said, "You could get a million dollars. And you could get it in cash. I know where it could be gotten."

He chose as vice president a man who took a quarter million dollars in bribes while in state office in Maryland. He is recorded on tape slurring homosexuals, Jews, women and Italians. He is also taped record talking to Chuck Colson and Henry Kissinger:

One day we will get them -- we'll get them on the ground where we want them. And we'll stick our heels in, step on them hard and twist -- right, Chuck, right? . . . Henry knows what I mean. Get them on the floor and step on them, crush them, show no mercy.

When it appeared certain that he would be impeached, Nixon resigned from office in disgrace, the first president to do so. More than 30 of his aides and friends went to jail. The Watergate judge, John Sirica, thought Nixon should have joined them.

As late as ten days before his death, Nixon was still struggling against the revelation of truths about himself. He filed suit to prevent the release of 3,000 hours of White House tapes and 150,000 pages of presidential papers.

It is argued in a number of establishment quarters that the foregoing were mere technical fouls when held up against Nixon's achievements in the field of foreign policy. In such arguments not only are the criminal events of Chile and Cambodia ignored, not only are the lies and failure of Vietnam overlooked, but, in fact, détente with China and Russia was hardly the invention of Richard Nixon. The problem was that for several decades to even hint at such an idea was to risk opprobrium from the likes of Richard Nixon. From early in the postwar era, honest voices about China and the Soviet Union lost their jobs and were blackballed in the Cold War hysteria fostered by Nixon and others. The reason Nixon could open the door to China was because he didn't have to worry about what Richard Nixon would say about it.

The Progressive Review

Bucking the system since 1966

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This then was the man for whom Bill Clinton declared a national day of mourning and for whom he flew to California to deliver a eulogy. Clinton's only allusion to the real Nixon was a passing comment that "he made mistakes and they, like his accomplishments, are part of his life and record." It was not the first time that week that Clinton had publicly praised a criminal. A few days earlier he had phoned Michael Milken while the securities hustler was being honored at the 21 Club.

And here is how the Clinton campaign described the era of which Milken was such a part:

A gilded age of greed and selfishness, of irresponsibility and excess. . . [of] S&L crooks [who] stole billions of dollars in other people's money. . . It's the Republican way; every man for himself and get it while you can.

Of course, as it is now becoming increasingly clear, it was also Bill and Hillary's way. During those same 1980s, the Clintons were getting it while the getting was good. They became part of a tale dubbed Whitewater which, now among other things, is occupying more than 25 fulltime FBI agents in Little Rock.

Well, say the president's defenders, at least it's not Watergate. There are no constitutional issues involved.

Right. Not then. But how about now?

How about a president who proposes that public housing tenants give up their constitutional rights to permit warrantless searches of their homes for drugs and weapons?

And how about his housing secretary dismissing these constitutional questions by saying, "Beyond ideology, beyond partisanship, beyond fine legal distinctions," there is a demand for an end of violence?

If the Bill of Rights is but a "fine legal distinction," then why not include permission for warrantless searches in all leases and mortgage agreements? That's how we did it with drugs. We started with the easy cases and before long just about everyone in the country who wanted a job had to give up their rights and take a drug test. Bill Clinton even took a urine sample from Lloyd Cutler, his unpaid patrician Whitewater advisor. These constitutional chickens do come home to roost.

And when a young questioner on MTV asked Clinton about the Singapore's low crime rate, the president responded, "How do you account for that? Is our system outdated? Does it need to be changed?"

Clinton said:

When we got organized as a country and we wrote a fairly radical constitution with a radical bill of rights, giving a radical amount of individual freedom to Americans, it was assumed that the Americans who had that freedom would use it responsibly. . . It assumed that people would basically be raised in coherent families, in coherent communities, and

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THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

MARKETERS RARELY SEEK TO **FILL** NEEDS, BUT RATHER TO **CREATE** THEM... FOR INSTANCE, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THERE WAS REALLY MUCH DEMAND FOR **CLEAR** PRODUCTS PRIOR TO THEIR INTRODUCTION...



NOR WAS THERE A NOTICABLE CLAMOR FOR "DRY" BEER--A PRODUCT WHOSE UTTER INEXPLICABILITY WAS SIDESTEPED WITH AN AD CAMPAIGN RIDICULING THE **NEED** FOR EXPLANATIONS...



AND WHILE FEW PEOPLE SEEM TO WORRY ABOUT **STALE** COLA, CANS OF DIET PEPSI ARE NONETHELESS BEING STAMPED WITH **EXPIRATION DATES**--TO ENSURE **FRESHNESS**...



IT IS AN ONGOING PROCESS...WHY, AT THIS VERY MOMENT, HIGHLY PAID PROFESSIONALS ARE WORKING DILIGENTLY TO DEVELOP EVEN MORE USELESS INNOVATIONS YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO LIVE WITHOUT...



TOM TOMORROW 4-13-94

communities, and they would work for the common good, as well as for the individual welfare.

What's happened in America today is, too many people live in areas where there's no family structure, no community structure and no work structure.. And so there's a lot of irresponsibility. And so a lot of people say there's too much personal freedom. When personal freedom's being abused, you have to move to limit it. . .

Clinton is not alone. The new mayor of New York, speaking at a crime forum said the other day, "Freedom is about authority. Freedom is about the willingness of every single human being to cede to lawful authority a great deal of discretion about what you do."

■

A Little Rock attorney, Philip McMath, in writing about Clinton recently recalled the part in *All the King's Men* where it is asked whether Willie Stark is interested in money. The answer was:

He's interested in Willie. Quite simply and directly. And when anybody is interested in himself quite simply and directly the way Willie is interested in Willie, you call it genius.

■

Like Willie Stark, Willie Clinton is interested in Willie, quite simply and directly. Like Richard Nixon, Clinton has to win; "the important thing is to win."

In such a world the Bill of Rights becomes a fine legal distinction and there are no sins or crimes any more -- only technical fouls in the game of success. The worst that can happen to a politician anymore is a few years in the penalty box of public opinion. Then it's back to the ice.

And so Bill Clinton and Spiro Agnew and George McGovern and Elliot Richardson went to California to honor Richard Nixon. And the torch was passed. -- Sam Smith

THE WEATHER REPORT

Sleazy supermarket tabloid stuff

- In the last issue we recounted the tale of journalist L.J. Davis, a contributing editor of *Harper's* who went to Little Rock to investigate ties between the Clintons and questionable bond transactions of Stephens Inc. for a piece in the *New Republic*. Davis told several reporters about having surprised someone rifling his files in his hotel room. He said he had been knocked unconscious, pages were torn from his notebook, a critical document disappeared and his list of Little Rock sources was removed. Davis said that before going to Little Rock he had been warned by a Clinton administration official that "I should do whatever it was I felt I had to do in Little Rock and get out."

After the story came out, however, two employees of the hotel in question claimed that Davis had spent the evening drinking martinis in the hotel bar. Davis agreed he had drunken a number of martinis but earlier in the evening. According to an AP story, "Mr. Davis said he was not drunk and does not believe his injury was related to the drinks: 'That amount of liquor generally renders me somewhat charming, but it sure doesn't put me under the table. I wish this thing had never gotten out.'"

- Of course, those following Whitewater are familiar with the metamorphosis of stories, especially as the White House tries out various versions for size. Still we were a bit startled to find a Clinton administration official saying that Hillary Clinton's original tale about why she got out of cattle futures -- remember the one about getting a margin call when she was pregnant? -- was "no longer operative." That was a phrase that we thought was no longer operative.

- Michael Kinsley points out that the media has largely ignored Hillary Clinton's neat little cellular phone franchise deal which netted her a \$44,000 profit on a \$2000 investment in the mid-80s. Wrote Kinsley:

There is no mystery about the nature of this sweetheart deal. . . Hillary Clinton's ability to get in on the gravy train derived from the fact that she was a prominent lawyer, a woman and married to the governor.

Here's how the deal worked according to the April 18 *Business Week*. Hillary got invited to join an investor group bidding on the Little Rock franchise at a time when the FCC made its grants with special attention to ownership by locals, minorities and women. Hillary's combine lost but threatened a lawsuit against the winner, which decided to unload the franchise to Hillary's group at a deep discount. The kicker was, according to Kinsley, that the Hillary franchise operation "almost immediately

flipped [the franchise] at its full value to McCaw, the cellular giant."

- If Whitewater is too complicated for you to understand, consider this: more than half of the people who bought lots from the Whitewater Development Corporation apparently lost their land back to the company according to a report by the *Washington Post*. The gimmick used by the McDougals and Clintons was what is known as "poor man's real estate financing," under which the purchaser has virtually no rights until final payment is made. Thus, if any payments are missed, the company quickly takes over the property and the buyer loses all equity. In other words, the Clintons and McDougals were running a classic resort land scam, albeit legal in Arkansas and a number of other states.

- Still to come: the full story of Mena, Arkansas, the Contra and drug-running center, which Bill Clinton declined to investigate. According to CBS News' Bill Plante and others, the Arkansas state police knew what was going on at Mena in 1984 and even Clinton admits to hearing about it in 1988. Ross Perot even called Clinton to warn him. As Plante noted in a letter to the *Wall Street Journal*:

Mena is a perplexing and difficult story. There is a trail

It was only an itty-bitty S&L, after all. . .

A short guide that proves that Watergate really was different from Whitewater; in Watergate the White House had to do all the covering up itself.

Jon Katz of *New York* magazine thinks that Clinton's critics are "disingenuous and Cotton Mather-ish obsessions with character and morality."

Daniel Schorr of NPR on Whitewater: "Overdone."

Jack Germond of the McLaughlin Group: "What in the world does this have to do with anything?"

E. J. Dionne of the *Washington Post*: "President Clinton is a victim of the politics of moral annihilation."

William A. Hillard, editor of the *Portland Oregonian* thinks there is a "cancer of mean spiritedness festering the journalistic gut today."

Anthony Lewis of the *New York Times*: "Whitewater at worst involves petty financial juggling and favors years before Bill Clinton became president."

-- tens of millions of dollars in cocaine profits, and we don't know where it leads. . . The FAA, FBI, Customs, CIA, Justice, DEA and the IRS were all involved in Mena. They won't say how they were involved, but they will tell you there is nothing there.

Land of the free

- A federal appeals court ruled that customs agents had authority to open a package from Turkey addressed to a US post office box because Turkey is a "known source country" for drugs. Says the lawyer for the person receiving the package, "Every country in the world is a source country. Even if that's not true it makes every person from that country a second class citizen. They have relatives in that country. Their mail is going to be searched, while others' won't simply because of their nationality."

- The idea of boot camps for the young recalcitrant has gotten politicians like Clinton a lot of macho points but it turns out the concept is a bust. Aside from problems of the brutality encouraged by the system, recidivism rates are not any better than normal incarceration and in some states 50% of the participants drop out and end up back in prison. As Coleman McCarthy pointed out recently, "About the only asset of boot camps is that they are photogenic." Says Jerome Miller of the National Center of Institutions and Alternatives, "These boot camps fit some white people's fantasy of having unruly black kids shaped up by being pushed around and shouted at. The politicians can point to all this hokey discipline and say it works. That's how it looks on camera, so it must be true. So when one federally-funded study found that Georgia's boot-camps didn't work, an aide to Governor Zell Miller just said, "We don't care what the study thinks. The governor is a product of a [Marine] boot camp, and it changed his life and he thinks it can change some others."

- The Clinton administration is trying to get away with the claim that all documents of the National Security Council are presidential records and not subject to the Freedom of Information Act. Previously, NSC records are divided between those considered presidential papers and those subject to FOIA.

The mediacracy

- Despite the impression being given, Whitewater coverage on two of the three networks' evening news programs has generally supported the Clintons. Clinton got the best treatment on CBS during March, according to a study by the Center for Media and Public Affairs. 72% of those quoted by CBS were positive towards the Clintons, compared to 54% on NBC and 36% on ABC. Busting another myth, the center pointed out that television coverage was one-third as extensive as that following reports linking Nixon to Watergate or that devoted to the Iran-Contra scandal in November and December of 1986.

- Martin Zweig, who is one of the country's leading investment newsletter publishers, has come up with an

market insight based on the probability that *Time* and *Newsweek* are wrong. He got the idea when he noticed that both publications ran bearish cover stories on the market. With the help of Paul Montgomery at Legg Mason, all *Time* and *Newsweek* covers were researched. As Zweig points out, these magazines "do not have to run business stories on their covers, so when they do, it can often be a significant gauge of public sentiment." The findings:

Over the past 40 years there have been 22 prior covers which were outright bearish about the stock market. A month later the S&P [on average] was down another 1.2%, but thereafter stocks moved counter to the tone of the covers. Three months later the market was up an average of 3.2%, six months later up 8.1% and a year later up 17.2%.

- While much of the press ran interference on the Clintons' seedy business activities, Caroline Donnelly, executive editor of *Money*, put it straight:

The winners [in the futures market] tend to be traders with big bucks -- or the well connected. Indeed, the Clintons' principal investments in the late 1970s were in real estate development and in the under-regulated commodity markets - investments of the it's-not-what-you-know-but-who-you-know variety. But unless you are as plugged in as a governor's wife, stick with bonds or the stocks of growing enterprises. . .

- *High Times* is celebrating 20 years of publishing and of supporting the cause of legalized marijuana. Its circulation is 200,000.

The prig watch

- A theology professor who was accused of sexual harassment after recounting a story in class from the Talmud is suing the Chicago Theological Seminary, which had placed him on probation and publicized the incident. Graydon Snyder had been telling the same tale for 34 years to illustrate the difference between Judaism and Christianity. In the story, a roofer falls on a woman and they accidentally have sex.

Explains Snyder, "The New Testament says if you think about doing the act, you've done it. The Talmud says if you do the act, but didn't think about, you didn't do it."

Just politics

- A Green party activist has been elected to the

[It is] a fundamental principle of our representative democracy that the people should choose whom they please to govern them, and that this principle is undermined as much by limiting whom the people can select as by limiting the franchise itself --
Alexander Hamilton

Alameda County Council (Calif.), becoming the fifth elected Green in the state.

- According to the *Texas Observer* nearly 100 Republicans in Congress voted against virtually every piece of major federal legislation in 1993.

- The Staten Island Charter Commission has submitted a bill to the NY legislature proposing creation of a board of education elected by cumulative voting. In Michigan a citizens group has launched an initiative drive for a bill that would establish a form of proportional representation for a unicameral state legislature. A draft document for the 1995 UN World Conference on Women calls for national, state and local legislative bodies to adopt PR.

Healthcare

- More than a million Californians have signed petitions to put a state single-payer health plan on the ballot in November. And in Massachusetts a dozen communities may have an initiative on the ballot to instruct their state legislators to support single-payer.

Education

- With little public attention or debate the federal government continued its takeover of American public education as Congress approved national academic guidelines for all subjects. Not only does the action represent an assault on the country's federal system, but judging from the first reports of the standard-setters, the whole scheme will serve as a costly sinecure for social scientists, nosy parkers and redundant academics of one sort or another.

Most American teachers already suffer under bloated and pointless local school bureaucracies; now thanks to the national goals program, they're going to have various federal inspectors looking over their shoulders as well. Not only that, but the National Education Goals Panel is telling parents what to do as well. According to this bizarre creature of American Late Empire politics, parents are supposed to be asking themselves such questions as:

Do I use all opportunities to encourage my child's language development, like telling family stories, taking time to answer his/her questions fully, or asking my child to help me at the store by naming items we buy?

Such governmental intrusion into personal and educational matters is a familiar characteristic of totalitarian governments and one that we have, until recently, avoided by steadfast adherence to the principle of local control of public schools.

Besides, it looks like American capitalism is doing well enough on its own teaching our school children brand identification. A recent newsletter of the Center for the Study of Commercialism notes, for example, that Proctor & Gamble offers a so-called environmental curriculum which argues at one point:

Clear cutting removes all trees within a stand of a few species to create new habitat for wildlife. Proctor & Gamble

uses this economically and environmentally sound method because it most closely mimics nature's own process.

There is also a curriculum from Prego spaghetti sauce that offers a scientific experiment complete with test kit with which kids can compare the thickness of Prego sauce that that of its competitor, Ragu. Any class using the kit will qualify for a free trip to Hollywood. Now there's an idea for the national goals panel.

Loose change

- The Clinton administration is studying the idea of a shorter workweek according to a letter from a Labor department aide to an advocate of the idea.

- It looks like Clinton's plan to Thatcherize the nation's air control system may be a non-starter due to congressional opposition. The plan was to create a quasi-private corporation like the Postal Service to make sure plans landed and took off safely. Airlines would have been represented on the board, which is a little like turning over the enforcement of highway weight limitations to the trucking industry. Besides, using the Postal Service as a model for anything seems risky; we might end up losing whole planes in Chicago as well as mail.

Cybernews

- Writing in *Wired*, Jacques Leslie tells a remarkable story of the power of computer networks. During the anti-Yeltsin uprising, three prominent labor leaders were arrested, taken to jail and 'beaten with rubber batons and steel rifle butts. When labor leader Vassily Balog got wind of the incident, he immediately e-mailed friends in the US and UK and posted an appeal on GlasNet that included the phone number of the police station. Within 50 minutes the Russian police were getting phone calls from around the world. One of the arrestees said afterwards, "We were watching from the cell as the phone calls came in. One of the first was from Japan. The police didn't seem to be able to believe it. After that the phone ran hot. . . In the end the police started saying we'd already been released, but we were shouting through the bars, 'No, no, We're still here!'" Within a few hours the three were released along with others detained at the same time.

The idea mill

- Jimmy Carter's presidential center in Atlanta has gotten five federal agencies and the state of Georgia to agree on a single, simplified document which can be used for applying for AFDC, food stamps, Medicaid, Social Security disability benefits, housing assistance and aid to women & children. The form replaces 64 pages worth of seven forms that formerly would have been necessary. There will be a six-month test of the new application..

- Texas governor Ann Richards has installed 50 government information kiosks in malls and grocery stores. They look like ATMs and provide info about government jobs, benefits, retraining and labor laws.

FEEDBACK

• *Virginia Douglas of Bethesda, Md., writes to say:* Bill Clinton has you frothing at the mouth. I used to like your rag, but you've become progressively irrational. Please cancel our subscription. You now read like the *Washington Times*.

• *William J. Snape III, wildlife counsel of the Defenders of Wildlife, writes to take issue with information we passed on from the anti-NAFTA forces which had included DW as one of the backers of the trade agreement:* Congressional and public debate over the North American Free Trade Agreement was one of the most contentious in recent memory. What's more, individuals will continue this debate as NAFTA is implemented and as the Uruguay Round of GATT is brought before Congress. But meaningful exchanges on multilateral trade agreements, and their relationship to quality of life, are surely not served by lies and innuendo. Such is unfortunately the case in "NAFTA and the incorporation of America," which claimed that my organization "plugged for NAFTA" because we are "recipients of funds from corporations doing business in Mexico."

Let me set the record straight. First, we were highly ambivalent about NAFTA and communicated this to anyone who bothered to ask (which this publication did not do). on the one hand, we believe that NAFTA represents an opportunity to influence Mexican and continental environmental policies in a historic way. on the other, some legitimate U.S. environmental laws remain subject to attack as illegal barriers to trade.

As for funding, in 1993 we received a handful of matching gifts from employees of several corporations, most notably for our Watchable Wildlife program. In any event, our NAFTA policy was the result of difficult and painful internal deliberations.

So, in the spirit of seeking genuine progressive public policies, let's stop the finger pointing on NAFTA. Let's get to the business of monitoring NAFTA and dealing with a global trade agreement that almost everyone acknowledges is highly deficient in advancing sustainable growth and basic worker rights.

Furthermore...

• Paul Krassner's *Realist* reports that a Scottish bank is now allowing transvestites to use two of its new high security check cashing cards -- one with a photo of the client dressed as a man and the other as a woman.

• Those who think Singapore is a nifty role model should bear in mind that associations, societies, clubs, churches and other groups of more than ten members must register with the government, which can dissolve those it doesn't like. Assemblies of more than five persons must have police permission. Those wishing to speak at a public function must get a license from the police. All major general circulation newspapers are controlled by one corporation, which is close to the government. Foreign publications are given quotas and specific issues are banned. Broadcasting is a government monopoly. Opposition parties are intimidated. You can be detained without trial. Still interested?

ROADSIGNS

Campus

Mexican American students who said they dined or studied frequently with someone from another race: About 3 out of 4

Asian American students who said they dined or studied frequently with someone from another race: About 2 out of 3

Black students who said they dined or studied frequently with someone from another race: About half

White students who said they dined or studied frequently with someone from another race: Less than one of 4.

Percentage of Asian American students who said they dated cross racially: 42%

Percentage of Mexican American students who said they dated cross racially: 24%

Percentage of black students who said they dated cross racially: 13%

Percentage of white students who said they dated cross racially: 4%

Clinton

Percent of Clinton's appointees who received graduate or undergraduate education from an Ivy League institution: nearly 50%

Blatant self-promotion

Once again the *Review* has been nominated for an annual Alternative Press Award. The nominations are for coverage of emerging issues and for general excellence in publications under 15,000 circulation.

Annual value of non-cash compensation to Clinton while governor of Arkansas -- including staff, food, housing, and town car: \$289,000

Ecology

Number of gallons of water it takes to build one car: 120,000

Percent of all energy produced in North America consumed by the energy industry itself: 25%

Percent of vegetables consumed by Hong Kong that are grown in Hong Kong: 45%

Economics

Percent of new jobs in 1993 that were in the entertainment and recreation fields: 12%

Amount Virginia will pay in subsidies per anticipated fulltime job for the construction of a Disney theme park: \$60,000

Amount per anticipated fulltime job that Alabama offered to Mercedes Ben to build a car factory in the state: \$169,000

US public investment as a percent of gross domestic product, 1990: 1.7%

German public investment as a percent of gross domestic product, 1990: 3.4%

British public investment as a percent of gross domestic product, 1990: 4%

Japanese public investment as a percent of gross domestic product, 1990: 6.1%

Percent of American children living in poverty: 20%

Percent of German children living in poverty: 5%

Per capita American spending on military as a percent of per capita German spending on military: 250%

Birthrate of women on public assistance in Wisconsin: 45.8 per 1000

Birthrate of all women in Wisconsin: 75.3 per 1000

Percent of US fulltime workers in 1979 who were not earning enough to keep their families out of poverty: 12%

Percent of US fulltime workers today who are not earning enough to keep their families out of poverty: 18%

Number of workers worldwide who are unemployed or marginally employed: 820 million

Health

Percent of Americans with no health insurance: 14%

Percent of Germans with no health insurance: 2%

Percent of Japanese with no health insurance: 0%

Justice

Number of inmates in Texas state prison system, 1990: 49,157

Number of inmates in Texas state prison system projected in 2000: 206,000

Cost of Texas prison system, 1980: \$91 million

Cost of Texas prison system, 1994: \$1.8 billion

Cost of Texas prison system, projected in 2000: \$3 billion

Sports

Percentage of the 55 players in the Final Four of NCAA Division I basketball championships this year who were black: 65%

Percentage of the 350 non-playing positions in the Final Four of NCAA Division I basketball championships this year who were black: 3%.

Violence

Number of times more likely that a gun in the home will be used to commit murder, suicide or an accidental killing than it will be used in self defense: 43

Number of murders average child will see on television before finishing elementary school: 8000

Number of other violent acts average child will see on television before finishing elementary school: 100,000

Sources

Campus: Study by Sylvia Hurtado and Eric Dey at the University of Michigan and Jesus Trevino of Arizona State University. Clinton: *The Clinton 500: The New Team Running America* published by Almanac Publishing; Arkansas State Auditor reported in *Washington Times* 4/2/94; Ecology: E. P. Fowler in *Alternatives Economics: Business Week*, 3/14/94; *The Economist* 3/19/94; National Priorities Project; World Health Organization Health: National Priorities Project Study by Mark Robert Rank, associate professor of social work at Washington University; Census Bureau Justice: Texas Performance Review by the Texas State Comptroller. Sports: Rainbow Coalition Violence: Children's Defense Fund, American Psychological Association

FIELD NOTES

ACTION

Stopping the clipper chip: The Clinton administration wants to make all communications devices easily accessible to wiretapping through the installation of a uniform "clipper chip." There is vehement opposition to this idea from civil liberties and computer groups. A *Time/CNN* survey found that 80% of the respondents opposed the clipper chip when its function was explained to them. To register your opposition, e-mail Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility at clipper.petition@cpsr.org, using the phrase "I oppose clipper" somewhere in the heading or first line.

Conference on new politics: Sponsored by various Green and New Party leaders to discuss the nuts and bolts of state and local victory for emerging parties and independent candidates. To be held in Oakland, CA, Jun 10-11. Registration is \$120. Details from 510-654-5311

GROUPS

Society for the Reduction of Human Labor: Dedicated to shorter worktime advocacy and planning. Publishes a newsletter. Membership is \$25, students \$15 and newsletter \$15. *SRHL*, 1610 E. College St., Iowa City, Iowa 52245.

Shorter Work-Time Group: a project of Women for Economic Justice, an organization working to improve the economic condition of poor women, especially women of color. Publishes a newsletter, the most recent of which points out that "for over 100 years, shorter work hours was the central issue of the US labor movement." This started to change in the 1970s due to the growing conservative political movement, the internationalization of American business and higher priority given such issues as job preservation and healthcare. *SWTG*, c/o *Women for Economic Justice*, 179 South Street #7, Boston, MA 02111.

READING

Third World Resource Directory: Nearly 700 pages of information on print, audiovisual and organizational resources on Africa, Asia, Pacific, Latin America, Caribbean and the Middle East. Some 2300 international non-governmental organizations are listed. Published by Orbis Books.

America's Longest War: Rethinking our Tragic Crusade Against Drugs: by Steven B. Duke and Albert C.

Gross. Discussion of the myths and realities of America's ill-conceived war on drugs. Published by Tracher/Putnam

United States Electoral Systems: Their Impact on Women and Minorities: By Wilma Rule and Joseph F. Zimmerman. An exhaustive treatment by two very knowledgeable authors. Published by Greenwood

Kids Count Data Book: Important state by state stats on various children's indicators such as health and economics. *Annie E. Casey Foundation*, 111 Market Place, Baltimore MD 21202. 410-234-2872

The Statehood Papers

Twenty years of writing about the DC statehood movement by *Progressive Review* editor Sam Smith. Gives arguments for DC statehood, reviews history of the nation's capital colony and describes the struggle for self-government. Useful to anyone involved in the DC statehood movement. \$10 from *Progressive Review*, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, Washington DC 20009. (DC residents: please add 60 cents sales tax)

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